



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Malawi Country Brief

October 2023



Operational Context

Malawi is a small landlocked country in Sub-Saharan Africa with a population expanding rapidly at 3 percent per year. With most livelihoods dependent on rainfed agriculture, the population is highly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters, especially drought and cyclone-induced floods.

Malawi's challenges are compounded by weak economic growth, high overall debt distress, low primary school completion (51 percent), a high prevalence of stunting and high prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection (8.8 percent). WFP supports the Government for a food and nutrition secure and resilient future, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.



Population: est. 20 million

Income Level: Low

2021 Human Development Index: **169**
out of 191 countries

Stunting: **35 percent** of children aged
6-59 months old

In Numbers

4.4 million Malawians (22 percent of the population)
face acute food insecurity October 2023 – March 2024

USD 36.2 million six-month net funding requirements for
WFP (December 2023 – May 2024)

49,783 refugees and asylum-seekers receiving cash
assistance as of September 2023

Strategic Outcome 1

- **Lean Season Response:** Food security in Malawi has deteriorated due to climate-related shocks, high prices and economic challenges. In the Government-led Lean Season Response Plan, USD 226 million is needed to address acute food security, with both cash and in-kind food as transfer modalities. To date, WFP has procured 943 mt of maize allocated for lean season response. This lean season will last longer (October 2023 – March 2024) and affect more people (4.4 million) across 28 districts and four cities, than in previous years. The clusters planning to intervene are: food security; nutrition; education; protection and social support; and transport and logistics.
- **Refugees:** WFP has been facing challenges with an increasing population of refugees, rising food prices and limited funding to boost self-reliance approaches. Due to resource constraints, WFP reduced food assistance (a cash-based transfer) from the equivalent of a 75 percent ration to a 50 percent ration starting in July. Distributions for September reached 49,783 refugees in Dzaleka camp.
- In 2023, WFP has received support for cash assistance to refugees from several donors. However, WFP is at risk of halting its refugee assistance from January 2024 should no additional resources be received.

Strategic Outcome 2

- **School feeding:** The United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Country Team visited Salima District Council to appreciate the joint efforts by the United Nations agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP) towards education in Malawi. WFP is the convening agency for the programme and also supports school feeding.
- WFP successfully hosted a high-level NORAD/Royal Norwegian Embassy mission to the Joint Programme for Girls' Education school in Dedza district.
- European Union *Tsolata* cooking competitions were conducted in Phalombe, Zomba, Nsanje and Chikwawa districts and finals will be held in Lilongwe in November.
- **Social protection:** The draft after action review for Cyclone Freddy was circulated with key recommendations including standard operating procedure development, capacity and systems strengthening, including for needs assessment and information management.
- WFP supported training on shock-responsive social protection management processes through the TRANSFORM project for 148 government social protection and emergency staff from councils and national level.

Contact info: Kylie Scott (kylie.scott@wfp.org)
Country Director and Representative: Paul Turnbull
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/malawi

Cover photo: Fifty kg bags of food delivered during an emergency programme in 2023.
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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
637 m	307 m	36.2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Shock-affected people vulnerable to seasonal and climatic shocks and refugees in Malawi have access to food all year long.
Focus area: Crisis Response

Activity 1: Provide cash and/or food transfers to refugees, malnourished people and the most vulnerable populations affected by seasonal shocks.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in food-insecure communities benefit from strengthened shock-responsive social protection systems and efficient supply chains to ensure access to safe, nutritious food all year round.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity 2: Support national social protection systems to become increasingly shock-responsive and hunger- and nutrition-sensitive.

Activity 3: Provide nutritious meals to schoolchildren in food-insecure areas.

Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations, especially children under 5, adolescents, PBWG, and TB & HIV/AIDS clients, in Malawi, have improved nutritional status in line with national targets.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity 4: Provide chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency prevention services to at-risk populations in targeted areas.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder producers in Malawi have enhanced resilience, through diversified livelihoods, increased marketable surpluses and access to well-functioning food systems and efficient supply chains by 2030.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: National and local institutions, agencies and enterprises in Malawi have increased capacity and improved supply chain systems to achieve SDG 2 by 2030.
Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity 6: Provide capacity strengthening, skills transfer, partnership activities and logistics and procurement services to national and local institutions and private-sector enterprises involved in food security, nutrition, food safety, disaster risk management and emergency response.

Strategic Result 8: Common Services

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners in Malawi have access to increased emergency services throughout the crisis. **Focus area:** Resilience Building

Activity 7: Provide services through the Logistics Cluster to National Disaster Management Offices and other relevant partners to improve emergency logistics coordination, access to services and supply chain management.

Activity 8: Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and other relevant partners to ensure effective emergency assistance.

Activity 9: Support national and sub-national systems strengthening activities to address systemic challenges, reduce the impact of shocks and improve local resilience of the health supply chain in Malawi.

Strategic Outcome 4

- Livelihoods:** WFP's food assistance-for-assets target 118,000 households in eight districts with land resource management, irrigation, crop and livestock production, and reforestation. In August, participants started implementation of interventions for the 2023 livelihoods cycle. These included the maintenance of land resource assets such as deep trenches, eyebrow basins and check dams ahead of the rainy season (November-March).
- As part of the Cyclone Freddy response, WFP has expanded livelihood interventions to target an additional 10,000 vulnerable households in the most-affected communities in the 2023 cycle. The initiative aims to improve livelihoods and promote healthier environments while reducing the impact of future shocks such as floods or dry spells.
- Health Supply Chain:** To support the Ministry of Health, two interactive dashboards were developed this month to map stock availability across the country; the dashboards highlight antibiotic and anti-rabies vaccine stock levels.

Strategic Outcome 5

- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis:** The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) [published](#) the results of its annual food security assessments which indicates that 4.4 million people in the country (22 percent of the total population) will be acutely food insecure between October 2023 to March 2024 and will require humanitarian assistance. This is substantially higher than in the previous year (3.8 million) and more than double the average of the past five years (2.1 million).
- Food Systems:** Ongoing technical support is provided to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to improve food quality and safety at the Strategic Grain Reserve and NFRA warehouses. This month, warehouse assessments were conducted, and recommendations provided for structural and warehouse management improvements.

Strategic Outcome 6

- National Logistics Cluster:** Based on lessons learned following Tropical Cyclone Freddy, logistics preparedness is a priority. Through the National Logistics Cluster, WFP supported the Government in the development of the National Contingency Plan and building awareness through stakeholder engagement on strategic prepositioning.

In pictures



A resilience programme beneficiary reaps rewards from WFP's small scale irrigation activity.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Canada, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Union International Partnerships, France, Flanders, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Multilateral Funds, Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Takeda, United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.